REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Newly submitted Claims 27-37 are presently active in this application, Claims 1-26 having been canceled and Claims 27-37 added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action the claims were objected to as including informalities requiring correction; Claims 1-4, 6, 9-14, 16-19 and 22-35 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by the Yokota et al IEEE article of record (hereinafter called "YO 1993"); and Claims 5, 7-8, 15, 20 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over YO 1993 in view of the paper by 2000 paper by Troe (hereinafter called "TO 2000").

In response to the objection to the claims as including informalities, the original claims have been canceled in favor of new Claims 27-37 which are drafted to overcome the grounds for objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the grounds for objection is respectfully requested.

The newly submitted claims are believed to find support in the original disclosure, as next described.

In particular, Claim 27 recites a simulation method including storing simulation models with different degrees of details, the models including a macro model requiring a lower amount of calculation and a low degree of precision and a micro model requiring a large amount of calculation and a high degree of precision.[1] The method includes setting an initial state of a moving object, a simulation condition, and a selection condition.[2] The initial

[1] Specification, page 12, lines 20-24 and page 13, lines 21-26
[2] Id., page 13, line 27 to page 15, line 13.

state includes, for example, an initial position and an initial speed of the moving object and the like. The simulation condition includes, for example, a width of a space, geography, a road, a simulation time and the like. The selection condition includes, for example, (C1) through (C9)[3] and a selection condition (C10) for designating a simulation model in association with a state of a moving object of an environment in order to change a simulation model depending on a state defined by a calculation result of the simulation.[4] A simulation calculator 4a has a function to input a state of a moving subject in the model selector 3a during the simulation calculation in addition to the function.[5] Thus, the model selector 3a has a function to enable selection of a simulation model on the basis of the present inputted state and the selection condition of the model set by the setting device 1 when a state of the moving subject is inputted from the simulation calculator 4a in addition to the above noted functions.[6]

As described in the specification, the term "a state of a moving object" represents, for example, a density of the moving objects, an average speed of the moving object, and the like and the term "a state of an environment" represents, for example, geography information, geographic information, weather information, and the like.[7]

Therefore, as described in the specification, by setting a selection condition of a model by the use of the state of the moving subject, it is possible to check a state during the simulation and change the model to an appropriate one dynamically. As a result, it is

[3] Id., page 14, line 15 to page 15, line 13.
[4] Id., page 22, lines 4-6 and 10-14.
[5] Id., page 24, lines 21-24.
[6] Id., page 22, line 23 to page 23, line 2.
[7] Id., page 11, line 18 to page 12, line 1.

possible to realize the high precision and a short calculation time at the same time in the same manner as the first embodiment.[8]

In contrast to the claimed invention, according to the teachings of YO 1993, different simulation modes, such as the free-run mode and the congestion mode, are employed, but the disclosed free-run mode and the congestion mode do not have the different degrees of details.

In addition, according to YO 1993, the mode is not selected based on the state of the moving object during the simulation. In YO 1993, the free-run mode is changed to the congestion mode when the traffic flow rate exceeds the value of Qcongest and the congestion mode is changed to the free-run mode when the number of vehicles is dropped below the value of Kcongest. These conditions for switching the simulation modes are up-to-the-minute traffic information but do not depend on the state defined by a calculation result of the simulation.

In view of these noted differences, it is respectfully submitted that newly submitted Claims 27-37 patentably define over YO 1993. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the deficiencies of YO 1993 are not remedied by TO 2000, and thus that the newly submitted Claims patentably define over the cited prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion,

[8] Id., page 27, lines 11 to 19.

new Claims 27-37 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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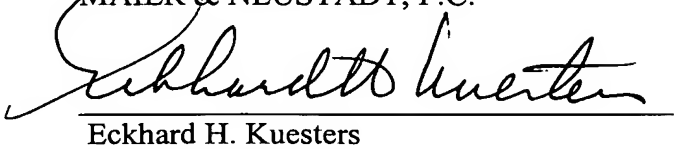

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